

THE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Friendship: A Vehicle for the Incarnate Christ

The gospel according to Luke tells us that Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth in a Judean town "in the hill country." Like Mary, Elizabeth's pregnancy was a surprise-- in Elizabeth's case, because she and her husband Zechariah were "getting on in years." When the pregnant Mary came and Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, "the child within leaped within her womb." I love to think of what the friendship between Mary and Elizabeth was like, and also the friendship that may have developed between their sons, Jesus and John. I know that friendship gives courage, and each of these people did courageous things to bring forward the glory of God.

Friendship-- the kind that brings forth God's light-- is a sometimes rare gift, and not to be taken for granted. Some collect friends as easily as a lawn collects leaves on an autumn day. But for others, friendship may seem as rare and longed-for as water in the desert.

Church is a place where the seeds of friendship can be found and, with trust, can grow into something rich and beautiful. During Advent, we are offering the chance to form Prayer Partners, and with another person share weekly requests for prayer. Who knows, it may lead you to discover a new friend. We will also open our doors on December 9 for a Community Holiday Singalong; we hope this chance will celebrate friendship among neighbors near and far.

God knows that we humans need each other. And that is the wonderful thing about the Incarnation. God enters our experience in human flesh, as Jesus. Jesus gathers friends-- the disciples, Mary, Martha, and even sinners and tax collectors. Jesus knows the sting of a friend's betrayal in Judas. In Jesus, we find out more about love and reconciliation with God-- but we practice these lessons first with our friends.

May this Advent season bring you good friendship, as well as ways to consider how God's love is made incarnate in the human love you have to offer and receive.

With blessing and care,

Leah

-The Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. Box 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358
WEBSITE WWW.PRESBYLEONIA.ORG**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 8-10 A.M.
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 1-5:30 P.M.
FRIDAY 8-12 NOON**





WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

December 2: Advent 1 with Communion

Following worship: The Hanging of the Greens and Intergenerational Advent Craft

December 9: Advent 2

4:30 Sunday Afternoon- Community Holiday Sing-along

December 16: Advent 3

Children's Pageant, with children as musicians and liturgists, and an Advent sneak-peak at some favorite Christmas carols

December 23: Advent 4

Christmas Joy Offering is received

December 24: 8 pm Christmas Eve

Candle lighting Service, with festive music and the ancient words of scripture announcing the arrival of the Christ Child!

December 25: 10:30 am Christmas Day Service-

A relaxed, child-friendly worship service as we bask in the light of God's love shown in the manger

December 30: 10:30 am worship with New Year's theme and more Christmas carols

DECEMBER 2018

SECOND READERS

December 2: Matthew Watson
December 16: Karen Peters
December 23: Gretchen Harders

USHERS

December 2: Ingrid Brennan, Jihyun (Julia) Kim, Keyla Garcia
December 9: Anne Stebbins, Ingrid Brennan, Susan Dindial
December 16: Linda McGarry, Vicky Li, Judy Nyirongo
December 23: Gretchen Harders
December 24: Karen Peters, Jack Peters, Susan Dindial
December 25: Wanangwa Nyirongo, Jihyun (Julia) Kim
December 30: Roberta Toolen

COUNTERS

December 2: Diane Borer, Olivia Taylor
December 9: David Voreacos, Pete Shanno
December 16: Anne Stebbins, Diane Borer
December 23: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito
December 24: Olivia Taylor, Jonathan Phillips
December 25: Pete Shanno, David Voreacos
December 30: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito

NURSERY

December 2: Laura Gonzales
December 9: Nicole Lehnbeuter
December 16: Linda McGarry
December 23: Judy Nyirongo
December 30: Vicky Li

COMMUNION SERVERS

December 25: Susan Shanno, Pete Shanno

Christian Education

The Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16. Please join us for the Christmas Pageant as the children perform as musicians and liturgists. There will also an Advent sneak-peak at some favorite Christmas carols.



WE GIVE TO OTHERS

At Christmas, we celebrate a great gift to us, and one of our responses is giving gifts to others. We have three distinct opportunities for such giving through our congregation:

- ♦ The annual Alternative Christmas Gift List is enclosed. With it, you can support one or more particular ministries.
- ♦ Gift Tags describing the gift requests from the women and children sheltered in the Oelhaf House will be available at the church on Sundays, December 2 and 9. You may purchase one of the indicated gifts and offer it — wrapped for Christmas—during worship on the 16th.
- ♦ You may also make a donation using the Christmas Offering envelope in your box of weekly envelopes. These gifts will be split between the Presbyterian Joy Offering, which benefits training for racial/ethnic leaders in the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as supporting retired PC(USA) clergy, and a local rape crisis center.

As you have been blessed, share with others.

Cynthia Callahan presents her film “In Memorium” as part of a Veterans’ Day discussion



THE CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Center for Food Action needs your help this year, with Christmas items as follows:

Frozen turkeys, canned white potatoes & yams, boxed mashed potatoes cranberry sauce, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, pancake mix, syrup, 100% juice, canned fruit, cake mix and icing, coffee and tea, supermarket gift cards to purchase turkeys.

CFA always needs the following: canned meats and tuna, canned soups, canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, dry milk and Parmalat, beans, rice, complete meals in a box, baby formula & diapers, Ensure, and supermarket gift cards, which allow people to purchase eggs, cheese, and fresh products throughout the year. The food we collect in the baskets also goes to Loaves and Fishes, a "soup kitchen" run by members of our church and other churches in our cluster. Loaves & Fishes needs canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, canned potatoes, canned fruit. When shopping, remember to pick up extras and bring them with you on Sunday. **Thank you.**



Michael Hinton, Mineko Yajima, Barbara Sabella and Pastor Fowler are ready for Advent; they all showed up in red plaid for the English Conversation Family Class. Many thanks to our musicians for sharing their love of music and play with the children and parents in our class.



Keyla Garcia "courageously" gives a Stewards Testimony

PLEDGE UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who have been so generous with your pledges thus far. We have heard many testimonies on how to find courage to be generous. We are especially pleased to receive new pledges, a reason to rejoice! If you have not yet sent in your pledge you may contact the church office and speak with Pat at 201-944-1358. Pledge forms are also available on-line and in the rear of the sanctuary. God has blessed our congregation with many cheerful givers!

Thank you!

Happy December Birthdays

Dec. 10	Kristen Richter
Dec. 12	Katie Lynne Muller
	Hyung Kune Shim
Dec. 24	Aiden Woojin Han
Dec. 27	Brian Jonson
	Max Voreacos
Dec. 29	David Voreacos

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 4:30 P.M.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD

CHRISTMAS, HANUKKAH AND OTHER SEASONAL CELEBRATION MUSIC

ALL ATTENDING WILL JOIN IN SINGING HOLIDAY FAVORITES AS A
SING-ALONG GROUP.

ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS ARE FREE, DONATIONS GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED.

HOLIDAY FOOD/BAKED GOODS AND CRAFTS FOR SALE.



Winter Holiday Songs

Help with the Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, December 2 please stick around after worship and help decorate the Sanctuary and Fireplace Room with greenery and candles to ready the space for Christmas. We need people of all ages to help with cleaning, hanging and decorating.



Hanging
OF THE *Greens*

CHRISTMAS JOY



Each year members and friends of our church share their Christmas generosity through the "Alternative Christmas Gift List." As you consider your Christmas gifts, think also of your neighbors in need, and donate to a local charity in honor of the birth of Jesus.

Please use the form included in this Newsletter to indicate your gifts. First, decide which ministries you would like to support and in what amounts. Then bring your list and a check made out to the Leonia Presbyterian Church, to the Christmas Gift table on **December 16**. You can also mail it to the church, P.O. Box 448, Leonia, NJ 07605.

In addition to supporting the alternatives on this list, you may wish to purchase a gift for one of the residents of the **Oelhaf House Shelter** and others we know who are in need. Gift tags with specific requests will be available at the Christmas Gift table on Sunday mornings. Please bring these gifts during worship on **December 16**.

Name _____

2018 Christmas Gift List

Amount of Gift

1. **Center for Food Action** provides a food pantry for emergency assistance, nutrition and budget counseling for individuals and families. CFA also provides advocacy services for hunger-related issues and assists clients in providing funding for housing and utilities. \$_____
2. **Family Promise** Unlike many housing programs, this shelter accepts both children and adults, and male and female guests—which enables families to stay together during a crisis. Case managers help families achieve financial independence. Our church helps host the shelter in Leonia 3 weeks/year. \$_____
3. **Community of Friends in Action** is a group of volunteers from the community, churches and synagogues that works with immigrant day laborers in the area. Currently they run a Monday program at noon at a church in Palisades Park that provides lunch and speakers on various topics such as worker rights and community relations. They also provide evening English classes, a workers' link program and assistance in collecting unpaid wages. \$_____
4. **Loaves and Fishes** is sponsored by the Englewood, Leonia and Teaneck Cluster Churches and is located at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Englewood. They serve a weekly hot meal and send clients home with a light bag meal of a sandwich, fruit and snack. \$_____
5. **Camp Johnsonburg** is the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center located in western NJ, an hour's ride from Leonia. Our church has enjoyed Camp Johnsonburg for the past 30 years or more and many of our young people have been campers and/or counselors. \$_____
6. **First Friends of NJ and NY** upholds the inherent dignity and humanity of detained immigrants & asylum seekers through volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance & advocacy. In the current climate of hostility around guests to this county, we have the opportunity to offer instead support and hospitality. \$_____
7. **Zoe's Place** is a safe residence for women under 21 who are pregnant or mothers with their young children. It is under the direction of Children's Aid and Family Services of NJ. \$_____
8. **Mission Trip Support** this summer our church will spend a week serving a Sister Jean's Kitchen, a Presbyterian mission that serves 150-350 hungry people daily in Atlantic City. Volunteers may also help with home and building repair in the aftermath of Super-storm Sandy. \$_____

YOUR TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

December 14th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored by

Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Merry Christmas! Featuring Christmas Songs!

Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!

***To Player: Bring instruments and play with pro.**

Any level of player is welcome!

Please bring tunes from "The Real Book".

No fee but donation is accepted to cover refreshments & utility cost.

WHEN: December 14th, 2018 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Next Session: January 11th, 2019 (Fri), same time.
Program will continue once a month,
Every second Friday night.

WHERE: Presbyterian Church in Leonia

181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605
(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)

Led by: Foreign Exchange
Michael Hinton (Piano)
Yoshi Koyama (Sax)
April Johnson (Keyboard)
Barbara Sabella (Vocal)
Yoshie Tanigawara (Bass)
Daniel Ovadia (Drums/Percussion)
Mike Ito (Guitar)

Please contact the following for any question.
Church: secretaryleonia@gmail.com or 201-944-1358
Coordinator, Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net or 201-679-6616

Church website: www.leoniapres.org

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